

# PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Date:** August 31, 2011

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## **PRESS RELEASE: Second Notice of Public Hearings seeking input on Vermont's Education Finance System**

Second Notice and Update of public hearings scheduled for Wednesday, September 7, 2011, to seek public input as part of the Picus and Associates' evaluation of Vermont's education finance system.

The first hearing from 3:30 to 5:00 PM through the Learning Network of Vermont (LNV), a school-based system provided for Vermont's education community, is currently being offered at 5 sites, including: Fair Haven, Montpelier, Newport (N.C.), St. Albans (BFA), and Barre City (Spaulding) High Schools. Other sites may be open and participating in-time for the hearing. For site updates/information, go to: [http://www.leg.state.vt.us/JFO/education\\_RFP\\_2011.aspx](http://www.leg.state.vt.us/JFO/education_RFP_2011.aspx)

The general public is invited to testify at the second hearing from 5:30 to 7:00 PM and will include 14 Vermont Interactive Television (VIT) sites, including: Bennington, Brattleboro, Castleton, Johnson, Lyndonville, Middlebury, Montpelier, Newport, Randolph Center, Rutland, Springfield, St. Albans, White River Junction, and Williston. The Waterbury site is NO longer available due to flood damage. Additional site information: <http://www.vitlink.org/>

Written comments are welcome and should be received by September 14, 2011 to be included in the evaluation. Please send to: Theresa Utton-Jerman at [tutton@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:tutton@leg.state.vt.us) or at the address above.

Individuals testifying at the hearings are asked to address three specific questions:

- What do you think are the two or three major advantages or strengths of the current Vermont funding system?
- What do you think are the two or three major shortcomings of the Vermont school funding system? For each, what recommendations do you have for improving the system?
- What can the state do to create incentives for all schools to boost student achievement to higher levels? What three or four recommendations do you have that will improve student performance (at all levels and starting points)? What are the funding implications of those suggestions?